

I would like to recommend against mandatory copy protection for HDTV receivers. While I strongly support and observe intellectual property rights, it is the invariable case that copy protection systems always operate to the detriment of the "innocent" consumer. I have been deprived of the use of software, electronic books, and downloaded resources because these systems often fail and when they do fail, it is invariably in favor of the industry. Mandatory inclusion of hardware/firmware copy protection in the receivers will give the industry "carte blanche" to roll over any rights or even convenience for the consumer. Finally, as is always the case, professional criminals, i.e. "pirates" will use their extensive resources to disable the systems and distribute the content while paying, well-meaning, but helpless consumers will be burdened by a mandated system.

The electronics and entertainment industries are about to receive a huge payout from the mandated switch to digital television as consumers are forced to replace receivers, monitors, sound systems, computer video boards, and legitimate DVD/video collections. Please don't grant them the equivalent of a royal patent for salt by giving them control of the units in our homes.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Bill Graney